

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

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Contact: Snoqualmie Pass—Trooper Rick Fisher at (425) 256-0028.

Satus and White Passes—(Eastern Washington) Lieutenant Jeff Jones at (509) 728-0957;
(Western Washington) Officer Corey Turner at (360) 624-0218

Blewett Pass—Officer Garry Nestler at (509) 312-0022

Stevens Pass—Trooper Don Cody at (425) 293-3719

Disautel and Wauconda—Lieutenant Jeff Jones at (509) 728-0957

Sherman Pass—Officer Nick Hopper at (509) 220-6667

Washington State Patrol continues chain enforcement on all state mountain passes while heavy snow continues to fall

With more snow in the passes than in recent years past, the Washington State Patrol continues to enforce chain requirements on the mountain passes. Troopers throughout the state are spending a great deal of time on the state mountain passes enforcing chain requirements. During this time they have written several citations for those who fail to chain their vehicles. Most of the citations have been written to Commercial Vehicle Drivers.

The WSP encourages all who travel the state passes to be equipped with chains when crossing during the winter months.

Washington State law requires all commercial vehicles licensed over 10,000 pounds to carry tire chains between November 1st and April 1st when traveling over mountain passes. The penalty for failing to carry chains is \$155; failing to chain-up carries a \$500 penalty.

“Every year a tremendous amount of time is spent on the passes performing traffic control behind semi-trucks stuck in the snow and ice who failed to chain-up,” said Captain Coral Estes, Commercial Vehicle Division. “This only contributes to the already unsafe driving conditions,” she added.

Over the last few months the WSP has investigated several collisions which have occurred on the passes from vehicles who have lost traction. Chaining up vehicles increases traction and greatly reduces the chance of being involved in a collision.

Chaining up on the shoulder can be very dangerous. The WSP recommends when chaining up your vehicle park your vehicle as far as possible from the roadway. If at all possible, chain up prior to entering the roadway.

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